

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

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R 100735Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0264

E.O. 11652: GDS

ROAGS: SGEN MU

SUBJECT: SULTAN'S MARRIAGE

REF: STATE 056253

1. SULTAN'S BRIDE-TO-BE IS SAYYIDA NOWAL AL BU SAID, A DAUGHTER OF SAYYID TARIK. SHE IS ABOUT 19. NOWAL IS ONLY DAUGHTER OF SAYYID TARIK BY HIS FIRST OMANI WIFE, WHO ALSO BORE HIM TWO SONS INCLUDING TALAL, AGE ABOUT 25, WHO IS ONLY QUALIFIED SOAF OMANI PILOT. (WITH HIS SECOND OMANI WIFE, SAYYID TARIK HAD SIX CHILDREN INCLUDING THREE SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS.)

2. LITTLE IS KNOWN OF NOWAL. SHE HAS SPENT MOST OF HER LIFE IN MUSCAT WHERE A SISTER OF SAYYID TARIK (SAYYIDA BATAYNA) WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING REAR HER AND HER SISTERS. NOWAL HAS OCCASIONALLY TRAVELED TO ENGLAND AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. SHE AND HER SISTERS HAVE LIVED VERY SECLUDED LIFE IN OMAN. SHE AND AMAL HAVE ATTENDED LADIES' TEA PARTIES HOSTED BY MRS. WOLLE AT THE RESIDENCE, ESCORTED BY THEIR AUNT BATAYNA.

3. CONFUSION WITH AMAL MAY ARISE FROM FACT NOWAL IS YOUNGER OF THE TWO BY YEAR OR SO. NORMAL PATTERN MAY HAVE CALLED, THEREFORE, FOR AMAL TO BE HM'S BRIDE. OUR GUESS IS THAT NOWAL INSTEAD IS THE CHOICE BECAUSE SULTAN'S MOTHER BELIEVED HER SOMEHOW MORE SUITABLE.

4. FNOWAL MAY ALSO BE SPELLED NAWAL. IN FUTURE THIS MAY NOT MATTER, BECAUSE ONE LEADING AL BU SAID FAMILY MEMBER TELLS US HM HAS DECIDED CHANGE HER NAME TO KAMILA, WHICH
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MEANS "THE COMPLETE ONE."

WOLLE

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